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PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT

In order to comply with the law, you have to know what the law is.

We have been talking so long about FIFRA and US EPA that it might be a good idea to remember that the States also have pesticide laws.

The words "State Primary Enforcement Responsibility," which appear in the latest amendments to FIFRA, mean that, for all practical purposes, EPA is giving up a substantial portion of the pesticide enforcement business. It is EPA's policy to turn over to the States, the primary responsibility for enforcing pesticide use violations.

As a result of this policy, and with the help of federal funds through "Cooperative Enforcement Agreements," there is a dramatic shift in State pesticide enforcement activities. States pesticide use investigations increased by nearly 100 percent between fiscal year 1978 and 1979. These activities will continue to increase.

What this means to you is that you may need to become better informed about your State's pesticide laws. Copies of the State pesticide laws and implementing regulations are available from State enforcement agencies. In most States, the responsible agency is located within the State Department of Agriculture.

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For your information, experimental uses of pesticides, in most states, require a State Permit in addition to any Federal permits issued by EPA.

MAINE EXAMINES ITS PESTICIDE POLICY

Governor Brennan of Maine, in response to strong concerns expressed by a number of persons and organizations, established a cabinet-level committee to conduct a major review of the State's pesticide policies. If the committee finds that a revision of existing statutes is necessary, the Governor will introduce new legislation in January.

PESTICIDE POLICY AND PUBLIC OPINION

Those opposed to the use of pesticides are rapidly becoming better organized and more politically astute. Although only a small minority, their voices are being heard quite often above or in place of everyone else's. This is reflected in attempts to dictate local government pesticide policies.

To be realistic, no particular policy can remain standing in a democratic society without public support. This is true regardless of how economically important chemicals are to agriculture and the forest industry, and regardless of a government's recognition of this importance. It is therefore essential, if you wish to continue receiving benefits from pesticides, that you inform and involve the public.

An informed public would be better able to differentiate between the proper, safe use of pesticides, and negligent misuses. An informed public would be able to disassociate properly controlled, well regulated pesticide applications from sensationalized stories about Agent Orange; Seveso, Italy; Love Canal; and indiscriminate criminal dumping of hazardous chemicals.

SUSPENSION/CANCELLATION

Dibromochloropropane (DBCP) - Notice that EPA suspended certain uses of DBCP was published in the November 9 Federal Register. The suspension order prohibits any further use of pesticide products containing DBCP on a number of crops including ornamentals (commercial and residential). Some of these products have been used on our nurseries.

EPA also intends to cancel unconditionally all remaining uses of all registered pesticide products containing DBCP.

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Dimethoate - EPA issued preliminary notice in the November 19 Federal Register that the agency will shortly conclude the Dimethoate RPAR process. EPA proposes to cancel all uses of dimethoate as dust formulations. All other formulations will require modification of label language to reduce the risk of its use; the manufacturers will also be required to conduct additional toxicity and applicator exposure studies.

Dimethoate is an insecticide sold under trade names such as CYGON^R. It is used in forest seed orchards and nurseries and on many ornamental plants.

NEW PESTICIDE LABELS

Dupont's Lannate ^R (EPA Reg. No. 352-342) and Lannate L ^R (EPA Reg. No. 352-370) insecticides are now registered for use on 247 different ornamental crops to control aphids, loopers, leafrollers, flea beetles, and a few other insects.

The new supplemental labels restrict the use of these products to certified applicators; they identify the specific hosts for which the products are recommended.

Copies of the labels can be obtained either from us or the company.

FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION PLAN

The USDA plan to certify pesticide applicators of restricted-use pesticides will be approved by the US EPA shortly. Responsibility for implementing the Forest Service section of the plan is delegated to Regional Foresters, Area Directors, and Station Directors.

According to the draft, the Forest Service will certify applicators in any or all of the following categories: Agriculture; Forest; Ornamental and Turf; Seed Treatment; Aquatic; Rights-of-Way; Industrial, Institutional, Structural and Health Related; and Demonstration and Research. Forest Service personnel will have the option of being certified under either the USDA plan or appropriate state plans.

STANDARDS DRAFTED BY EPA

EPA, with help from the U. S. Forest Service, drafted a set of standards designed to guide the application of pesticides in the 1980 Maine Spruce Budworm Suppression Project. The purpose of the standards is to clarify label directions regarding "misuse" of Sevin ^R 4 oil, Dylox ^R 4, Thuricide ^R 16 B., and Orthene ^R Forest Spray - especially with regard to "drift", and the contamination of water and other sensitive areas.

The draft standards were sent to the U. S. Forest Service on November 13. According to the draft, EPA admits that the total elimination of all traces of spray drift from sensitive areas is unattainable in actual practice. Also, as part of the standards, EPA recommends that Orthene ^R Forest Spray not be used in the 1980 Maine Spruce Budworm Spray Project.

Although the standards are specific to this years Maine spruce budworm applications, we expect that these or similar standards will be developed for nationwide application.

IPM DEFINED IN FS MANUAL

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been designated a Chapter in the Forest Service Manual System. The new Chapter (FSM 2140) defines IPM as "a comprehensive systems approach to achieving economic pest control in an environmentally acceptable manner."

Pesticide-Use Management is now addressed under Chapter 2150 in the manual system.

USDA REPORTS

The Methods Application Group, State and Private Forestry, Davis, Calif. published two reports dealing with the aerial application of pesticides:

Evaluation of the Marsh Turbo Thrush for Forest Spraying, Report No. 79-1, 33 pp. This report evaluates spray characteristics of the fixed wing aircraft.

Demonstration of Marsh Turbo Thrush to Deliver Pesticides to Coniferous Forests, Report No. 79-2, 41 pp. This report compares the performance of the fixed wing Turbo, Thrush with a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter. Spray deposit recoveries showed comparable performance between the two aircraft.

Copies of the reports are available from:

Methods Application Group
Forest Insect and Disease Management
USDA, Forest Service
2810 Chiles Road
Davis, California 95616

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